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EGYPT: Sadat moves against critics. (Page 7)



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EGYPT: President Sadat is renewing his campaign against those Egyptians out of step with his policies.

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25X1 [redacted] stricter press censorship has been imposed and a number of writers have been dismissed. Several prominent personalities are reportedly among some 65 journalists and editors given new assignments earlier this week. In addition, Muhammad Haykal, the chief editor of the semi-official Al-Ahram and the most widely read journalist in the Middle East, has apparently been censored for the first time in 22 years. An article he wrote last week describing Presidential Adviser Hafiz Ismail's visit to Washington as a failure is said to have been killed.

Sadat has expressed frustration over "domestic elements" working against his policies on several occasions, and he apparently views journalists and editors as among the worst offenders. A similar purge involving a high proportion of leftists occurred last month.

One of Sadat's purposes in purging journalists and tightening censorship apparently is to ensure himself freedom of maneuver in his current diplomatic probes. Sadat views his diplomatic campaign as a serious effort to test prospects for a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli impasse and is intolerant of any criticism of his efforts in this field.

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